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READING FOR BLIND.

A UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

Pleasure Taken by the Sightless in the Room Set Apart for Them—Fields of Literature Open to Them—A Daily System of Readings.

All good Americans should hope to visit the Congress Library before they die. It is one of the world's wonders, well worth a trip across a continent to view.

A sign points a directing hand to the reading room for the blind, and following it you enter the strangest room in the library, and, indeed, the strangest reading room in the world, for this is the only library known to contain special provisions for the blind. The idea of having reading room for the blind was suggested to Mr. Young, the librarian, by a woman whose heart had been touched by the plaint of a blind girl friend that there was so little opportunity for the most helpless class of persons in the world to have access to the literature for which they longed.

The room dedicated to this purpose is of good proportions, shady, cool, with great windows filled with growing plants, the touch and scent of which are a constant delight to the readers. The furniture suits the room and numbers among its pieces an unusually fine carved desk of historic value and a table to match. The blind appreciate this furniture very much and are proud of it, often feeling of the carving and speaking of its beauties. Around the walls of the room are ranged the cases containing literature for the blind, and the room is divided in the center by a large screen, behind which the readers can retire and so escape the observation of casual visitors. On the carved table is a beautiful vase, a gift from a Washington woman, and it is daily filled with cut flowers, which come as offerings from seeing people to their less fortunate friends.

The special attendant in charge of this room has a large responsibility resting upon her. She is Miss Etta Josselyn Giffin. The privilege of reading in a room by themselves meant two things to the blind. It afforded an opportunity to read books that had hitherto been unobtainable, and it was an acknowledgment of them as a class. This acknowledgment is especially dear because their complete dependence on the good will of their seeing friends has made them looked upon as objects of charity, and this public recognition of them as a class possessing the intelligent needs of seeing people is soothing to their natural desire for independence. The collection of literature at their service embraces all the standard works, the Bible, encyclopedias, Dickens, Thackeray, Eliot, Emerson, the great and minor poets, &c., and many musical compositions.

The cost of printing for the blind is so great that only the well-to-do can attempt the collection of an individual library; hence the benefit of a reading room to them. The Bible, for instance, which can be condensed into a pocket edition for ordinary readers and bought for 2 cents and even less, when published in finger print covers a series of eight volumes, and costs $100. A prayer book sells for $20, and a common writing slate for $1.25. This slate consists of a table, guide and stylus, and the rapidity with which the blind write is marvellous. As they read, they frequently pause to jot down on the slate some comments on the book they are studying. Their writing is done from right to left, though they read from left to right. The correspondence among themselves is a great source of entertainment, education, and comfort, and where several are gathered in the reading room, after the reading is finished, a smart interchange of slates goes on, each reading with his fingers the thoughts jotted down by the others.

After the reading room for the blind was opened the library officials were anxious that everything possible should be done which would tend toward its successful and permanent operation. One suggestion that has resulted in constant and increasing pleasure came from David Hutcheson, superintendent of the general reading room. It occurred to Mr. Hutcheson that if each day a good reader could be secured to read aloud to the blind visitors for an hour, they could become acquainted with much literature that has not yet been reproduced in the publications for the blind. With the co-operation of Miss Giffin, this plan was worked out. Mr. Hutcheson was a little timorous of its continued success, fearing it would be difficult to secure readers for each day, but, on the contrary, more readers have offered their services than dates can be found for, and very celebrated readers at that. The first person to read aloud was Mrs. John Russell Young, wife of the Librarian. Thomas Nelson Page, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Grace Greenwood, Frank Stockton, and many other authors have contributed their quota to the daily reading matinee. On several occasions celebrities have given little talks rather than readings, and these are especially appreciated, particularly when they relate to travel. These readings have proved a most interesting feature of the reading room, and greatly extended the scope and opportunity of the room's frequenters. Many blind persons desired to avail themselves of the privileges of the reading room, and were unable to do so, because they had no one to bring them to the library, so Miss Giffin interested a number of women who were willing to act as escorts to the afflicted ones, and these escorts day by day bring their charges to the readings.

It is interesting to note that their is no distinction of color or nationality. The first reader was a colored man, and the second a young white girl, who asked for Emerson's Essays, saying she was "hungry for Emerson." The literature called for by the readers is of a remarkably high order. The very concentration required of the blind for their reading creates a high order of intelligence, and a desire to learn of the best. The room is well patronized every day, even in bad weather, though on wet days more men than women are observed. Many pleasant and lasting friendships are formed among the readers, and a system of correspondence maintained Many letters of inquiry about the room are constantly received from residents of other cities.—New York Sun.

THE THREE KRUPPS.

And Their Wonderful Gun Works at Essen, Germany.

The city of Essen is located in the center of a hilly valley, which abounds in coal and iron ore, and the digging for both and the melting of the ore and casting the metal into ingots and rolling it into bars have been the occupations of the inhabitants for centuries past. Frederick Krupp, the founder of the great works bearing his name, was born in 1787, and when crucible cast steel was first introduced into England, and its importation from there into Germany had been made impossible through the edict of Napoleon, called "the continental sperre," F. Krupp began to produce crucible cast steel, first in small quantities for files, stamps, rolls for coins and shears, but only slowly could he convince and persuade German manufacturers to use his cast steel, and after a life full of disappointment and hardships, he died in 1826, after a long and severe illness, leaving to his son Alfred little else than the old homestead, which still stands in the midst of the great works and the secret of his invention.

Alfred Krupp's energy and enterprise soon conquered. His first success was to be able to furnish a cast steel of a varying degrees of hardness, thereby increasing its adaptability for many new purposes. Next came the invention of the weldless car wheel tires, which were patented in 1853 in all countries, and furnished him capital for enlarging his plant. In 1865 he interested himself in coal mines, iron ore mines and furnaces, which should furnish the material for his own works, and in 1867 he began to reap the harvest from his experiments, inaugurated long since, with steel cannons, and the great Franco-German war of 1870-71 proved beyond doubt their superiority as against the old bronze cannons. Since then the success of these works and their growth has been phenomenal, and when Alfred Krupp closed the busy and successful and philanthropic work of his life in 1877 at Villa Huegel, his princely home on the side hills of the valley of the Ruhe, the city of Essen, in recognition of his great work, erected in his memory a beautiful monument on the most prominent square of the city, and deputations from many nations mourned at his grave.

Essen is a city of ninety-six thousand inhabitants, and over twenty thousand of this population are employed in the works of the able and energetic son of Alfred Krupp, Friedrich Alfred. Over 1,200 acres of ground are covered with buildings and machinery. Many coal mines furnish fuel for the works, over 400 iron ore mines furnish the metal and large iron ore deposits in Spain, near Bilbao, have been purchased in addition, and a special fleet of steamers has been built which bring over 300,000 tons of this Spanish ore from Spain to the German coast and up the Rhine. Twenty furnaces at Duisburg and Neuwied-on-the-Rhine are reducing this ore for the Krupp works and are owned or controlled by them.—Iron Age.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Special Correspondence

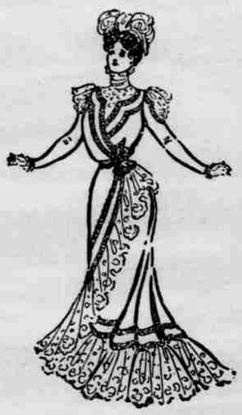
Major Joseph W. Wham, paymaster in the United States army, has been under a strange and distressing sentence since 1894, when President Cleveland, in mitigating a sentence of dismissal, decided that Major Wham should be suspended from duty until 1904 at half pay. Recently Major Wham's friends brought forward a bill to restore him to duty, which could only be done by setting aside the court martial finding. The bill was passed by the House, having been recommended by Secretary Alger, who had examined the history of the case and concluded that the man had been too severely punished. The House took that view of the case, for it seems from the accounts of it in the report which was made to Congress that Wham's army record was good from the time he was a private soldier during the rebellion: that he had since that time distinguished himself for soldierly qualities, and that the transaction for which he was court martialed was one with a private citizen involving the question of the payment of a note of $1,000. Wham neglected to make the proper defence in the case brought against him for payment of the $1,000, and he was very vigorously prosecuted as soon as he ventured to become a candidate for paymaster general of the army. During the debate this was alluded to, and there was also some rather vague criticism of the composition of the court martial. Some members of the House objected to paying Major Wham his full salary for the years he had not served, but Mr. Ray of New York very quickly suggested that if he had been improperly or wrongfully sentenced, the government ought to pay him, in justice, as the restoration to the pay roll was an admission that he should never have been taken from it.

BROCADES BIDDING FOR FAVOR.

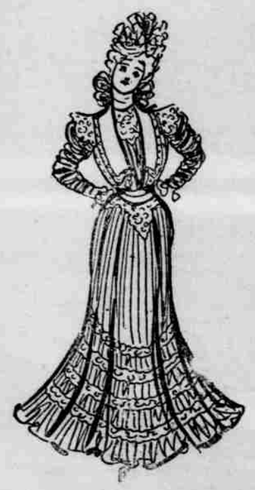
Pink Is the Desired Color Under This Materials.

(By special arrangement with the N. Y. Sun.)

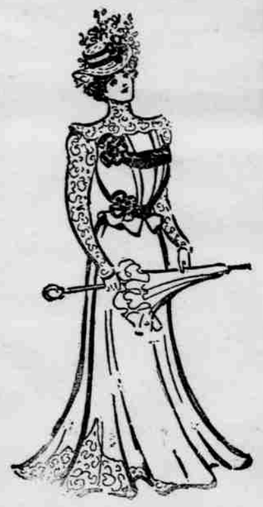
Brocaded materials of all sorts are making a bid for favor, and the prospect now is that autumn will bring this particular variety of dress goods to the front once more. Fashion, like history, is sure to repeat itself, even though it is never quite on the same old lines. Venetian guipure lace and insertion is the trimming on the baptiste gown, and a pretty touch of color is given by the belt and collar band of pale yellow green satin.



A delicate shade of yellow pink is one of the most favored colors for the silk linings under transparent materials of white, ecru, pale blue and gray. Some of the light India silk gowns are quite as pretty as the muslins, one model dotted over with tiny tea rose buds and lined with pink silk being especially charming.



A series of broad tucks, sloping toward the front to give a pannier effect without the old time puffiness, is one of the modes of skirt decoration seen on thin gowns. Wide bias folds are sometimes substituted for the tucks, as they can be arranged in the various desired forms much more easily. It is evident, too, among the latest gowns, that folds are a decided feature of dress trimming, an example of which is a white crepe de chine, trimmed up to the knees with wide folds of the same stuff put on in waved lines all around. The bodice is similarly decorated with bands of Venetian lace between the folds. A contrasting color is sometimes employed for this mode of trimming, white taffeta being used with striking effect over figured foulards. The folds may be put on to lap a trifle over each other, or separated by their own width with a row of lace insertion between, as you fancy, and still another pretty mode of using them is to head each one with a tiny ruche of chiffon or satin ribbon, bearing a narrow space between the folds.



Rudolph—Why did you insist on her returning your letters after the engagement was broken?

Algernon—I was afraid she would charge me storage.—Atlanta Journal.

FUTURE OF CUBA.

Major General Lee Discusses the Situation in the Island.

MILITARY OCCUPATION.

The Necessity for It and the Purposes of the United States.

ITS EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE.

General Lee Does Not Anticipate Any Opposition on the Part of the Cubans.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., August 24.

In the Florida camps and cities the war is no longer discussed. The question of supreme importance now concerns the plans for the reconstruction of Cuba. "What will be the political future of the island?" "How extensive is the military occupation to be?" and inquiries of a similar import are the first to be put by every man who has returned from Cuba since the signing of the protocol.

There is probably no other man in the country who can speak with so much authority or so interestingly on this subject as Major General Fitzhugh Lee Since the probability of his appointment as military governor of Cuba during the period of American occupation became a well-defined certainty, General Lee has maintained a dignified silence, refusing to talk for publication. Before he was summoned to Washington, however while still in command of the Seventh Army Corps at Jacksonville, he talked freely with the Commercial Tribune's correspondent in regard to the subject of Cuba's political future, as he was then able to do in an unofficial capacity. From the tone of these utterances, there is no doubt that General Lee understands and is in complete accord with the views of the administration with regard to the treatment of the Cuban situation. General Lee said:

General Lee's Views.

"The rules and regulations prescribing the course to be followed on the island of Cuba, now that the war is over, will be decided upon by the Government of the United States, but only so far as to embrace a provisional control upon the part of the United States, pending the formation of a government which will have the approval and consent of a majority of the voters of the island, as decreed and set forth by their representatives assembled in legislative conference.

"Without, of course, being able to foreshadow the policy of the Government of the United States, it may be said that during the transition state from Spanish to 'home' rule this Government will insist upon peace and order everywhere upon full security to human life and upon a strict maintenance of property rights of all classes and nationalities. In order to effect that purpose it will be necessary to have an armed occupation by the United States troops as a sort of constabulary, or, in other words, as a guarantee to the people who are now on the island, and to those who may hereafter come, that law and order and peace will be insisted upon in all portions of Cuba.

"Of the People, for the People."

In taking this action the United States can scarcely be accused of an intention to interfere in any way, share or form with the government of the island, which it is perfectly willing to leave to the people themselves, provided the guarantees as before stated are satisfactory.

"Whether Cuba will ultimately become a republic or later be merged into an American colony, and later still possibly into an American State, is a question for the future and for the people of the island to determine. By proving to the Spanish soldiers and residents who elect to remain there, and to Spanish merchants and property holders and others, that a safe and suitable government will be assured them, and that their rights will be respected in every particular as strictly as the rights of all other classes of citizens, it is to be hoped that their assistance may be obtained, with that of the conservative Cubans and Americans, in forming a government which will be sufficient for all purposes and which will remain as formed until those interested, under forms of law, shall proceed to change it

"The solution of the problem of establishing a fair and stable government in Cuba does not present any unsurmountable difficulties. It is almost certain that the interests of the people from the United States and other countries who are in Cuba now, or who settle there in the future will soon become too great to be exposed to revolutionary riots, even should there be found an element disposed to them. The Spaniards and the foreign born inhabitants of the island will undoubtedly realize that it is to their advantage to work in harmony with the conservative and law-abiding portion of the natives for the strict observance of the rights of all.

Military Occupation.

"It is difficult to say how many American troops will be required for the occupation of Cuba during the period pending the organization of a stable and efficient local government. The number should be sufficient to inspire confidence in the complete preservation of order, so that capital and enterprise will not be afraid to invade the island and do their part in the work of its restoration to peaceful prosperity. The change no doubt will be gradual, the United States troops taking the place of the Spanish soldiery as fast as the latter are withdrawn from the various garrisons. As the mission of the Americans is to preserve order, and not to wage war, it will scarcely be necessary to move them into Cuba in numbers equal to those of the retiring Spaniards. It may seem wise, however, to the Government of the United States to take advantage of this opportunity to give some of the volunteer soldiers who did not have the opportunity to participate in the active hostilities a chance to secure a somewhat more thorough military training than they have thus far obtained. This consideration may lead to the employment of a larger body of men than would otherwise be used, and to the taking of some of the newer volunteer regiments for this service.

"It is not conceivable that the native inhabitants of Cuba will receive the troops of the United States in any unfriendly or hostile spirit. They must realize that it is to the arms of the United States that they owe their speedy deliverance from Spanish rule, that the mission of the United States in the island is not one of conquest, but of friendly concern for the establishment of order, and that it is to their advantage, as well as to that of the other residents in the island, to make the task as light as possible.

A Hopeful Condition.

"An encouraging factor in the problem of Cuba's political future is presented by the attitude of the provisional government, as explained by its representatives in this country and by the emissary who has just come from its headquarters in Cuba. From this it appears that those who now control the administration of civil affairs in the island are willing and anxious to assist to the fullest extent of their power in bringing about the establishment of a suitable and satisfactory government. It seems to be no part of their plan to seize the reins of government, or even to hold the authority that has already been entrusted to them, as was attempted in the case of some of the South American countries on the achievement of their independence. On the contrary, the terms under which the present civil administration exists, and which it has declared its intention of respecting, provide for the calling of an assembly representing, as nearly as possible, all classes in Cuba and to turn over to this assembly its present authority and leave to the task of constructing a new government.

Worth Clipping and Keeping.

When the historian of the present American-Spanish war comes to the story of Dewey's sea fight at Manilla, he can do no better than to simply quote the following account from The Outlook. It is a model of English as well as of statement of great facts in little compass.

The later reports of the naval engagement of Manila show it to have been, in the combined sagacity and boldness of Commodore Dewey, unsurpassed and in the results achieved unequaled in the naval history of the world. Never before has an entire fleet been destroyed without the loss of a ship or even of a single life on the part of the attacking forces. The silent sail at midnight past the fort which was supposed to command the entrance to the bay, the almost contemptuous disregard of the mines placed in the inner harbor for its protection, the calm pushing forward after two mines had exploded just in front of one of the vessels, happily for our forces harmlessly, the silent receiving without return the earliest fire of the enemy, the terrible fire poured upon fleet and shore batteries when the Commodore had reached the point where he could make the fire most effective, the stopping after two hours of cannonade for breakfast and then the resumption of the battle, the sailing in closer to the shore by the aid of the lead to make the fire more effective, the brave but hopeless resistance of the Spaniards till every ship was absolutely destroyed or placed entirely hors de combat, the quick and chivalrous attention to the Spanish wounded by Commodore Dewey as soon as the victory was complete, the laconic message to the Spanish authorities on shore, after he had destroyed the fleet and anchored off the city, that one shot fired from shore would be the signal for a bombardment which would lay the city in ashes, the report wired to his government at home, as modest as the achievement reported was heroic—all combine to make this naval engagement one of the most romantic as it is probably quite the most decisive in its immediate results of any in the world's history.